



J. TYLER McCAULEY  
AUDITOR-CONTROLLER

**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES  
DEPARTMENT OF AUDITOR-CONTROLLER**

KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION  
500 WEST TEMPLE STREET, ROOM 525  
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012-2766  
PHONE: (213) 974-8301 FAX: (213) 626-5427

November 4, 2003

TO: Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke, Chair  
Supervisor Gloria Molina  
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky  
Supervisor Don Knabe  
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

FROM: J. Tyler McCauley   
Auditor-Controller

SUBJECT: **GROUP HOME PROGRAM MONITORING REPORT – TOUCH-A-LIFE  
FOUNDATION, TOUCH-A-LIFE #1 AND TOUCH-A-LIFE #2 SITES**

We have completed a review of the two agencies operated by Touch-A-Life Foundation, Touch-A-Life #1 and Touch-A-Life #2. Each home contracts with the Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and the Probation Department (Probation).

Touch-A-Life #1 is a 6-bed facility, located in the Second Supervisorial District that provides care for children ages 12-17 years who exhibit emotional and behavioral difficulties. At the time of the monitoring visit, Touch-A-Life #1 was providing services for six Los Angeles County Probation children.

Touch-A-Life #2 is a 6-bed facility, located in the First Supervisorial District that provides care for children ages 12-17 years who exhibit emotional and behavioral difficulties. At the time of the monitoring visit, Touch-A-Life #2 was providing services for four Probation children and one DCFS child.

**Scope of Review**

The purpose of the review is to verify that the two agencies are providing services outlined in their Program Statements. Additionally, the review covers basic child safety and licensing issues. The review included an evaluation of each home's Program Statement, internal policies and procedures, child case records, a facility inspection, and interviews with two children placed in each home at the time of the reviews.

The interviews with the residents were designed to obtain their perspectives on the program services provided by the homes and to ensure adherence to the Foster Youth Bill of Rights.

**Summary of Findings**

Touch-A-Life #1 and Touch-A-Life #2 are providing the services outlined in their Program Statements.

Attached are detailed reports of the findings for each home.

**Review of Report**

We discussed our report with the Agency's management. We thank Touch-A-Life Foundation's management and staff for their cooperation during our reviews.

If you have any questions, please contact me, or have your staff contact Patrick McMahon at (213) 974-0729.

JTM:PM:CC

Attachment

c: David E. Janssen, Chief Administrative Officer  
Violet Varona-Lukens, Executive Officer  
Public Information Office  
Audit Committee  
David Sanders, Ph.D., Director, DCFS  
Richard Shumsky, Chief Probation Officer  
Ottie Wade, Executive Director, Touch-A-Life Foundation

**TOUCH-A-LIFE FOUNDATION**

**Touch-A-Life #1**

**3822 W. 59<sup>th</sup> PL.**

**Los Angeles, CA 90043**

**Phone: (323) 295-4235**

**License No.: 191803623**

**Rate Classification Level: 9**

**I. FACILITY AND ENVIRONMENT**

*(Facility Based - No Sample)*

**Method of assessment – Observation and resident interviews**

**Sample size for resident interviews: Two**

**Comments:**

Touch-A-Life #1 is located in a suburban neighborhood and blends in well with the other homes on the street. Overall, the exterior and the interior of the facility and the surrounding grounds were clean and comfortable.

The residents' bedrooms were comfortable, well decorated, and clean. The residents were able to personalize their bedrooms by posting pictures and personal items on the walls.

The facility had a variety of athletic and educational supplies, including exercise equipment, video games, board games, books, and a computer.

The children reported an overall satisfaction with their bedrooms and the facility.

The food supply was of adequate quantity and quality and properly stored.

**Recommendations**

**There are no recommendations for this section.**

**II. PROGRAM SERVICES**

**Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews**

**Sample size for resident interviews: Two**

**Comments:**

Touch-A-Life #1 provides and documents the program services provided to its residents. Both residents had the required initial assessments that were thorough, detailed, and focused on several aspects of the assessment needs of the residents.

Both residents had Needs and Services Plans in their files that were detailed and specifically designed for each resident with measurable and achievable goals. Input from the residents and their authorized representative was included in the Needs and Services Plans.

Neither resident had been placed long enough to require a Quarterly Report.

Both of the residents were receiving extensive clinical services in a variety of therapeutic milieus. In addition to group and individual therapy conducted by social work staff or contractors as described in the program statement, psychiatric, behavioral, and psychological treatments were provided on regular weekly or more frequent basis.

### **Recommendations**

**There are no recommendations for this section.**

## **III. EDUCATIONAL AND EMANCIPATION SERVICES**

**Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews**

**Sample size for resident interviews: Two**

### **Comments:**

Touch-A-Life #1 documented education and emancipation services provided to its residents. Copies of progress reports, report cards, and other school correspondence were maintained in the residents' files. The residents stated that the home provided adequate educational support, educational resources, and daily cognitive stimulation.

Both residents reported that they were taught activities for daily living, self-help, and survival skills.

The residents were provided with emancipation and vocational training programs.

### **Recommendations**

**There are no recommendations for this section.**

## **IV. RECREATION AND ACTIVITIES**

**Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews**

**Sample size for resident interviews: Two**

**Comments:**

Touch-A-Life #1 was providing appropriate recreational activities to its residents. The residents expressed satisfaction with the variety and the quantity of activities provided by the agency and stated that the recreation schedules were followed.

Local community organizations were utilized for recreation and program resources and the residents reported that they participated in the planning of the activities. The residents reported that they were able to participate in self-selected activities and that they were provided transportation to the activities.

**Recommendations**

**There are no recommendations for this section.**

**V. PSYCHOTROPIC MEDICATION****Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents**

**There were six residents placed in the agency at the time of the review. A review of case files was not conducted as there were no residents prescribed psychotropic medications.**

**Comments:**

According to management, there were no residents receiving psychotropic medication.

**Recommendations**

**There are no recommendations for this section.**

**VI. PERSONAL RIGHTS****Method of assessment – Resident interviews**

**Sample size for resident interviews: Two**

**Comments:**

Touch-A-Life #1 was ensuring that the personal rights of its residents were respected. Residents expressed satisfaction with the facility and staff.

The children stated that they felt safe in the home, there was no interference with daily living functions, and that the atmosphere was generally fair and respectful.

Both residents reported satisfaction with the food, that the discipline policies were consistently enforced by all of the staff, and that they had fair and appropriate consequences for inappropriate behavior. The residents also reported that staff supervised them appropriately and expressed satisfaction with the quality of their interactions with staff. The residents felt that most of the staff was fair and respectful in their interactions with the residents.

Both residents reported that their privacy was respected, they were able to contact their social workers and attorneys at any time, and that their chores were not too difficult.

The residents stated that they had religious freedom, received appropriate medical care, and were informed about any medications they were taking.

The residents were aware of their right to refuse medication.

### **Recommendations**

**There are no recommendations for this section.**

## **VII. CLOTHING AND ALLOWANCE**

### **Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews**

#### **Sample size for resident interviews: Two**

#### **Comments:**

Touch-A-Life #1 provides appropriate clothing, items of necessity and allowances to the residents. Touch-A-Life #1 supplies its residents with the required monthly clothing allowance in the amount of fifty dollars, and the residents are given the opportunity to select their own clothes. Clothing provided to the residents was of good quality and of sufficient quantity.

The residents are provided with a fair minimum weekly allowance that they were able to increase based on the agency's behavioral system.

Touch-A-Life #1 provides residents with adequate personal care items and sufficient, secure space to store their personal items.

Both residents had life books.

### **Recommendations**

**There are no recommendations for this section.**

**TOUCH-A-LIFE FOUNDATION**  
**Touch-A-Life #2**  
**1593 Densmore St.**  
**Pomona, CA 91767**  
**Phone: (909) 626-3709**  
**License No.: 191500237**  
**Rate Classification Level: 9**

**I. FACILITY AND ENVIRONMENT**

*(Facility Based - No Sample)*

**Method of assessment – Observation and resident interviews**

**Sample size for resident interviews: Two**

**Comments:**

Touch-A-Life #2 is located in a suburban neighborhood and blends in well with the other homes on the street. Overall, the exterior and the interior of the facility and the surrounding grounds were clean and comfortable.

The residents' bedrooms were comfortable, well decorated, and clean. The residents were able to personalize their bedrooms by posting pictures and personal items on the walls.

The facility had a variety of athletic and educational supplies, including exercise equipment, video games, board games and books. The residents' computer was operational.

The children reported an overall satisfaction with their bedrooms and the facility.

The food supply was of adequate quantity and quality, and the open foods in the refrigerator were properly stored to prevent spoilage.

**Recommendations**

**There are no recommendations for this section.**

**II. PROGRAM SERVICES**

**Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews**

**Sample size for resident interviews: Two**

**Comments:**

Touch-A-Life #2 provides and documents the program services provided to its residents. Both residents had the required initial assessments that were thorough, detailed, and focused on several aspects of the assessment needs of each resident.

Both residents had Needs and Services Plans that were detailed and specifically designed for each resident with measurable and achievable goals. Input from the residents and their authorized representative was included in the Needs and Services Plans.

The residents' Quarterly Reports were detailed, comprehensive, and addressed the children's therapeutic, residential, educational, and social goals.

Both residents were receiving extensive clinical services in a variety of therapeutic milieus. In addition to group and individual therapy conducted by social work staff or contractors as described in the program statement, psychiatric, behavioral, and psychological treatments were provided on a weekly or more frequent basis.

**Recommendations**

**There are no recommendations for this section.**

**III. EDUCATIONAL AND EMANCIPATION SERVICES**

**Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews**

**Sample size for resident interviews: Two**

**Comments:**

Touch-A-Life #2 documented education and emancipation services provided to its residents. Copies of progress reports, report cards, and other school correspondence were maintained in the residents' files. The residents stated that the home provided adequate educational support, educational resources, and daily cognitive stimulation.

Both residents reported that they were taught activities for daily living, self-help, and survival skills.

The residents were provided with emancipation and vocational training programs.

**Recommendations**

**There are no recommendations for this section.**



#### **IV. RECREATION AND ACTIVITIES**

**Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews**

**Sample size for resident interviews: Two**

**Comments:**

Touch-A-Life #2 was providing appropriate recreational activities to its residents. The residents expressed satisfaction with the variety and the quantity of activities provided by the agency and stated that the recreation schedules were followed.

Local community organizations were utilized for recreation and program resources, and the residents reported that they participate in the planning of the activities. The residents reported that they were able to participate in self-selected activities and that they were provided transportation to the activities.

**Recommendations**

**There are no recommendations for this section.**

#### **V. PSYCHOTROPIC MEDICATION**

**Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents**

**There were five residents placed in the agency at the time of the review. A review of case files was not conducted as there were no residents prescribed psychotropic medications.**

**Comments:**

According to management, there were no residents receiving psychotropic medication.

**Recommendations**

**There are no recommendations for this section.**

#### **VI. PERSONAL RIGHTS**

**Method of assessment – Resident interviews**

**Sample size for resident interviews: Two**

**Comments:**

Touch-A-Life #2 was ensuring that the personal rights of its residents were respected. The residents expressed satisfaction with the facility and staff. The children stated that they felt safe in the home, there was no interference with daily living functions, and that the atmosphere was generally fair and respectful. Both residents reported satisfaction with the food.

The residents reported that the discipline policies were consistently enforced by all of the staff and that they have fair and appropriate consequences for inappropriate behavior. The residents also reported that the staff supervised them appropriately and expressed a certain level of satisfaction with the quality of their interactions with staff. They felt that most of the staff was fair and respectful in their interactions with the residents.

Both residents reported that their privacy was respected, they were able to contact their social workers and attorneys at any time, and that their chores were not too difficult.

The residents stated that they had religious freedom, received appropriate medical care, and were informed about any medications they were taking.

The residents were aware of their right to refuse medication.

**Recommendations**

**There are no recommendations for this section.**

**VII. CLOTHING AND ALLOWANCE**

**Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews**

**Sample size for resident interviews: Two**

**Comments:**

Touch-A-Life #2 provides appropriate clothing, items of necessity and allowances to the residents. Touch-A-Life #2 supplies its residents with the required monthly clothing allowance in the amount of fifty dollars, and the residents were given the opportunity to select their own clothes. Clothing provided to the residents was of good quality and of sufficient quantity.

The residents were provided with a fair minimum weekly allowance that they were able to increase based on the agency's behavioral system.

Touch-A-Life #2 provides residents with adequate personal care items and sufficient, secure space to store their personal items.

Both residents had life books.

**Recommendations**

**There are no recommendations for this section.**